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Even Odds in British Elections

Jasper Grunwald Affair May Favour Labour Party

By LEONEL BLACH

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON.

THE British election campaign, which started rather

quietly, underwent a dramatic change. Whereas

until now it was the Tories who were expected to win

the election, it is now the Labour Party which is

generally expected to win. This is due to the

fact that the Tories have been considerably reduced by

two main factors: the so-called 'Jasper affair' and the

Labour Party's old-age pension proposals.

As the Jasper affair is in a

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all those prepared to

try their luck, provided the

loan yields a good interest

rate and is secured on the

site and building to be

erected.

After five years of war and

eight years of building

restrictions, the most dynamic

elements in the business

world were presented with

golden opportunities, and the

general public soon dis-

covered the attractions of

property company shares. Al-

though in many cases hopes

were higher than dividends,

the rewards were often mag-

nificent. Responsible bodies

like the Council of Building

Societies, and the Stock Ex-

change, often tried to curb

the greed of the public by

warning it to be a little more

discriminating with invest-

ments. Therefore, nobody

should have been very sur-

prised to learn that a partic-

ular group of companies was

in difficulty; but then this is

election time, and the parties

were a little embittered un-

der the whole electoral is-

sues. Although it is clear that

one cannot blame the Con-

servative Party for the Jasper

companies' troubles, the

Tories are even trying to turn

the tables by publicizing the

connections between one of

the Jasper companies and the

Cooperative Building Socie-

ty there can be no doubt

that many voters look upon

the whole business as a by-

product of welfare-state

capitalism.

The 'Jasper affair' had of

course, a 'Jewish angle'. It

is difficult to decide to what

extent the average English-

man's prejudices against Jew-

ry have been a factor in the

election. Without fear of

generalization one can say

that many Englishmen

assume that Jews tend to be

smart, a bit sharp in busi-

ness, a little too ostentatious,

a little too noisy — in a word,

not always gentlemen. The

Jasper affair has strength-

ened these prejudices. They

may remain potent long after

it has faded out.

THE other great election

issue is based on the Social-

ist Party's promise to increase

the old age pension by 10

shillings a week immediately

upon their return to power.

The Tories were prompt in

denouncing this promise as a

bribe. Be this as it may, the

fact remains that those who

have nothing but their pen-

sions to live on, a hard life,

even after the three con-

secutive increases granted by

the Conservative Government

during the last few years.

The Socialist promise is a

shrewd one, as it is calculated

to appeal to a section of the

population which inclines to-

wards the Tories as it ad-

vances in age.

Appeal to Pocket

The Conservatives were

quick to point out that most

of the £200m. needed for the

proposed increases will have

to come out of the taxpayers

pockets, but this prospect may

not dismay them as residents

of the area. It may, however,

make the ordinary taxpayer

think twice before casting

his vote. To reassure him,

Mr. Galtsoff has taken

steps not to increase income

tax during peace time —

should he be returned to

power. The Socialists argue

that the money for higher

pensions could be paid out

of the profits of their propo-

sed initiative in industry,

and would not yield more

than £50m. a year. The So-

cialist minority on the Com-

mission took the opposite

view and anticipated a re-

venue of £300m. from capital

gains tax.

A further element of un-

certainly has been intro-

duced by the massive inter-

ventions of Liberal candi-

dates who will contest 217

seats, 107 more than in the

last General Election. It is

calculated that in every

'three-cornered' fight, the

Liberals can take away two

of the three votes from the

Tories than from the Social-

ists.

NEWSNAME: Katriel Salmon

Taking Zion to South Africa

Forty-five year-old Katriel

Salmon, who is leaving

Israel today on his way

to South Africa as Israel's

new Minister to Pretoria, was

born in Jerusalem, the sixth

generation of a family of

Israel's oldest Ashkenazi

families.

'I want South Africa's Jew-

ry to feel that Israel is just

around the corner and not a

far-fetched aim,' the newly

appointed Minister stressed.

And it seems that he is just

the type to bring Israel close

to the heart of South Africa's

120,000 Jews in addition to

his diplomatic assignment.

Katriel Salmon's most re-

cent important posts were

Military Attaché in London

in 1950-1954 and in Wash-

ington and Ottawa until 1957.

Anglo-Israeli relations were

still rather strained and there

was no contact with the mil-

itary field when Mr. Salmon

succeeded in opening the

Cambridge Military College to

Israeli officers and later be-

came instrumental in the

purchase of our first Meteor

planes.

His days in Washington

were climaxed by the strain

of the Sinai campaign, but

his diplomatic skill and

striking personality managed

to keep personal contacts

with the Pentagon leader-

ship close even during the

Suez crisis. It was Mr. Sal-

mon's meeting with General

'Slim' Marshall that brought

about his visit to Israel and

his outstanding book about

the campaign.

Mr. Salmon's military ex-

perience dates back to 1941,

when he joined the British

Army, serving first in the

units, serving first in the